

Remarks

This amendment is responsive to the official action mailed on February 10, 2006 and places the claims directed to allowable subject matter into allowable form by combining their subject matter with base and intervening claims. No new matter is presented.

The claims as amended number three independent and 17 total. No fee is required.

In the official action, claims 3, 6, and 18 were objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but were considered directed to allowable subject matter and allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 4, and 17 have been amended as independent claims including the allowable limitations previously included claims 3, 6, and 18, thereby rendering claims 1, 4 and 17 allowable.

Specifically, claim 1 now includes the limitations stated in originals claim 1 and 3. Claim 4 includes the limitations of original claims 1, 4, 5, and 6. Claim 17 includes the limitations of claims 17 and 18. Claim 12 and 13 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 4. Claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14-16, and 18 have been canceled.

New claims 22-26 are added and substantially include the limitations of originally-presented dependent claims. Specifically, claims 22, 23, and 24 depend from claim 1 and correspond to original claims 4, 7, and 12. New claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 4 and correspond to claims 2 and 3.

All pending claims are now allowable in accordance with the official action. Applicant need not comment on the prior art rejections. However, this amendment is made without prejudice to the possibility of a continuing application seeking allowance of additional subject matter.

Restriction was required under 35 U.S.C. §121. Applicant provisionally elected Species II, Figs. 6-11. Claims 1, 14 and 17 were considered generic. Applicant affirms the provisional election.

No claims have been withdrawn from consideration as nonelected. It appears likely that the pending claims were considered generic to both identified species (as opposed to the restriction requirement being withdrawn). Therefore, applicant also reserves the possibility of filing a divisional application directed to the non-elected species.

All pending claims are allowable in accordance with the last official action. Formal allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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